

[7 August, 2000]

RAJYA SABHA

CBI Enquiry against Oil Companies

1617. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Bureau of Investigation has recently registered a preliminary enquiry against some officials of three Government owned oil companies for extending credit facility to eight private airlines, as reported in the Hindu of 14th June, 2000;

(b) if so, whether this includes as international airlines also;

(c) whether proper bank guarantee securities were obtained;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) to (e) Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has initiated a preliminary enquiry on the issues of non-recovery of dues from private domestic airlines and international airlines. Bank guarantee/securities were obtained in some cases.

Use of Diesel as Fuel by Power Generation Projects

†1618. DR. D. MASTHAN:

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have permitted the use of diesel as fuel in the power generation project in the country;

(b) if so, whether Government have assessed the additional

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

demand of diesel in the country before giving permission in this regard; and

(c) if so, what will be the quantum of additional demand of diesel, alongwith the details of arrangements proposed to be made for its supply?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) to (c) With the commissioning of additional refining capacity in the country during the year 1999-2000, country has become self sufficient to meet the demand of diesel. It has, therefore, been decided to permit use of diesel as fuel for power generation. Additional demand of diesel for this purpose has not yet been finalised.

Effect of Adulterated Petrol

1619. SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE:

SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN:

Will the Minister of PETROLUEM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that petrol is mixed with solvent Naptha, raffinate and slop and this adulteration can damage automobile engine, besides contributing to environmental pollution;

(b) whether it is a fact that such adulterated petrol is sold in many States, particularly in Gujarat;

(c) whether oil companies have conducted raids on those outlests; and

(d) if so, the cases of adulteration detected and the action taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) to (d) To check the adulteration in automobile fuels viz Motor Spirit (MS) and High Speed Diesel (HSD) by adulterants like Naptha, Solvent, Raffinate and Slop, the